TERRA

THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY
VOL. 26, NO. 3 • JANUARY / FEBRUARY 1988

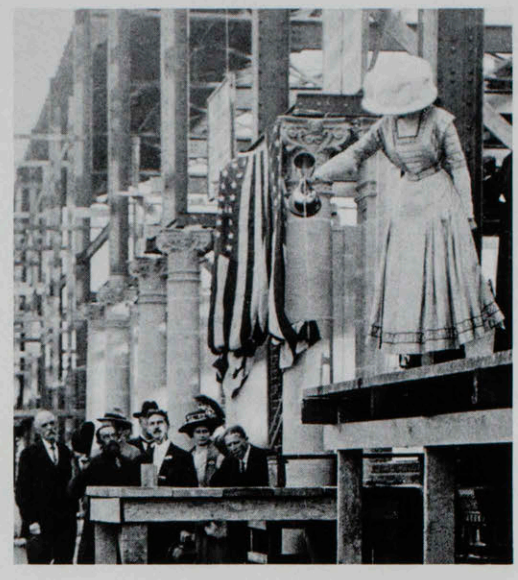
75

SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY WALL CALENDAR 1988



1913.

Woodrow Wilson was inaugurated twenty-eighth president of the United States. Stravinsky's *Rites of Spring* premiered. The Geiger counter was introduced. Cecil B. De Mille directed *The Squaw Man*, his first Hollywood film. Richard Nixon was born. The foxtrot came into fashion. The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County opened its doors and signaled Los Angeles's leap into the twentieth century.





Dick Meier

In Perpetuity.

PLAY PLACE OF WONDERS GIVEN TO THE PEOPLE.

Opening of State Exposition Building and Los Angeles County Museum of History, Science and Art. Corner-stone Laying of Armory and Dedication of Memorial Fountain Is Rich and Memorable Programme.

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (then known as the Los Angeles County Museum of History, Science, and Art) was dedicated on December 17, 1910, by Mary Spencer Bowen, the sixteen-year-old daughter of Judge William Bowen, who had spearheaded the conversion of the seedy and lawless Agricultural Park into a cultural center that the city of Los Angeles (population 300,000) could be proud of. (Top, right) Miss Bowen is pouring water from the Owens River on the museum's foundations from the silver chalice seen above left; the openings of the Owens River Aqueduct and museum were yoked, signifying the city's potential for enormous growth and its future as a cultural center.

BEAUTIFUL GALAXY OF TREASURE HALLS

The museum officially opened its doors on November 6, 1913; according to the *Los Angeles Times*, between 2 and 4 p.m. "more than 10,000 persons passed in and out of the museum's doors." An elegant reception was held in the evening for the city's political and cultural leaders.

The Board of Governors
of the
Museum of History, Science and Art
of
Los Angeles County
requests the honor of your presence at an
Informal Reception
to be held
Thursday evening, November sixth
nineteen hundred thirteen
at
eight o'clock
in the
Museum Building, Exposition Park.



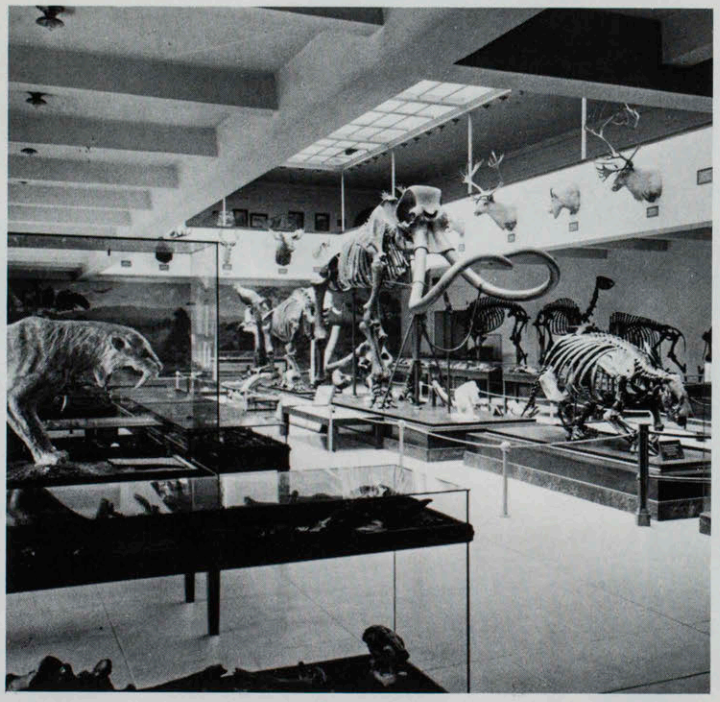
Dick Meier

At left is the first scientific specimen accessioned into the museum's collections: a willow goldfinch

nest and four eggs collected along the San Gabriel riverbed. The museum's first collections and displays were amassed from local scientific and historical associations. The museum's most spectacular possessions were the ice age fossils found in the tar pits at Hancock Park; in 1913 the new museum was given exclusive rights to excavate at Rancho La Brea. At right two men dig fossils from the asphalt beds circa 1920. The photograph below shows a 1914 exhibit of an American mastodon, a ground sloth, and other ancient and modern animals in the museum's science hall.



The museum building was completed by the end of 1912. Designed by local architects Frank D. Hudson and William A. O. Munsell, the exterior of the museum was executed in a successful amalgam of Spanish Renaissance, Beaux Arts, and Romanesque architectural styles. The East (Rose Garden) entrance is seen below in 1914, shortly after the museum's opening.



Since 1913 the Natural History Museum has grown in achievement until it ranks among the nation's most prominent natural history museums. It is outstanding in the range and importance of its collections, the expertise and energy of its curatorial staff, the breadth of its public programs, and the diversity and size of its audience.

We are proud of the Natural History Museum's heritage and excited by its promise for the future. In this spirit, we present this calendar depicting the museum's treasures to its members and hope they will join us in celebrating the museum's seventy-five years as a major scientific, historical, and educational resource for a dynamic community.




Montgomery Bros.
Los Angeles,
Cal.
ENIGMA
SWISS MADE
JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC
SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT
American Watch Co.

The pocket watches shown above date from the late eighteenth through the early twentieth centuries. The smaller timepieces, like the one on the lower right, were often worn by women. Many of these were given as tokens of esteem to co-workers, local dignitaries, or as awards for accomplishments. They are representative examples of the hundreds of timepieces in the museum's collections.

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	December 1987 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		February S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29		1 New Year's Day	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Observed	26	27	28	29 Members' Open House 6:30 to 10 p.m.	30
31						



Trilobites are extinct marine animals that swam, crawled, and dug in crablike fashion in the seas of the Paleozoic Era (250 to 570 million years ago). This stony slab shows fifty specimens of the trilobite *Homotelus bromidensis* huddled together in a mass death, possibly asphyxiated by red tide conditions 470 million years ago, on the sea bottom at what is now Oklahoma. The slab is from the museum's collection of three million invertebrate fossils.

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Saint Valentine's Day	Presidents' Day					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



This beautiful cup is similar to others recovered from lavish late pre-Hispanic (A.D. 1200–1533) burials on the south coast of Peru. Both gold and silver cups of this form have been found, but bimetallic examples such as this one are rare. The cup is a marvel of pre-Columbian Andean metallurgy. It was hammered from a single sheet of silver; there are no seams or mechanical joins other than the attachment of the gold to the silver.

MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	St. Patrick's Day 24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	April S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	



The rock wren *(Salpinctes obsoletus)*, which ranges from Costa Rica north to Canada, builds its nests on rocky hillsides and sometimes in cracks in stone or adobe walls. When the eggs hatch, the young are tended by both parents. The examples shown above are from the Section of Birds and Mammals nest and egg collection.

APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	March S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		May S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Passover Begins
10 Easter Sunday	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 Diamond Jubilee Dinosaur Ball



This decorative wood-drilling brace, along with the historic plane, measuring tape, and collapsible rule, were typical tools of the wood-working trades at the time the museum was founded seventy-five years ago. These tools are part of a collection of more than 500 wood-working artifacts housed in the History Division at the Natural History Museum.

MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Cinco de Mayo	13	14
15 Mother's Day	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		





A Perfect Gift for the Holidays

This holiday season, give a gift of wonder and discovery. Your friends, relatives, and associates will love the year-round gift of membership in the Natural History Museum and the Page Museum of La Brea Discoveries. In addition to all the benefits listed below, we will send a distinctive gift membership announcement with your personalized message.

Active, Family, and Senior Members Receive

- Unlimited free admission to both museums
- A year's subscription to TERRA
- 10 percent discount in all four museum shops
- Invitations to members-only events
- A bimonthly TERRA CALENDAR listing all museum events, education programs, and exhibits
- Reduced fees for workshops, lectures, Lending Service, and field trips for both adults and children
- Unique travel opportunities

Contributing Members Receive

All above benefits plus

- An attractive *Olympic Girl* poster
- Four free guest passes

Patron Members Receive

All above benefits plus

- The exciting museum publication *Dinosaurs: Past and Present*
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- Reciprocal membership benefits at other natural history museums

For more information, please call 213/744-3426

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☐ Contributing $50
☐ Patron $100

Form of Payment

☐ Check enclosed (payable to Natural History Museum Foundation)
☐ Cash enclosed
☐ American Express ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

ACCT. NO _____ EXP. DATE _____

SIGNATURE (AS ON CARD) _____

Please send notice of gift expiration to me next year
☐ Yes ☐ No

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Giver of Gift

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE: HOME ( ) _____ WORK ( ) _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Affix
Stamp
Here

Membership Office
Natural History Museum
900 Exposition Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90007

Galena, or lead sulfide, is the most important ore of lead. This specimen, measuring about ten inches across, was found in 1973 at the Sweetwater Mine in the Viburnum Trend lead-mining district of southeastern Missouri. It was purchased for the museum by the Docent Roundtable in honor of science education specialist emeritus Gretchen Sibley. This specimen is on permanent display in the Hall of Gems and Minerals.

JUNE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	May S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Father's Day 26	27	28	29	30	July S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	



This "slate pencil" sea urchin *(Heterocentrotus trigonarius)* was collected on July 19, 1958, off Wake Island in the Central Pacific. These urchins occur in holes or crevices in coral reefs throughout the Indian Ocean and West Pacific; they can grow to four inches in diameter and can regenerate spines that are broken off by marauding fishes. This individual is one of about 40,000 samples of seastars and their relatives (echinoderms) that recently have been transferred from the Allan Hancock Foundation of the University of Southern California to the Natural History Museum.

JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	June S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		August S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Independence Day	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



The ancient bison *(Bison antiquus)* was larger than the modern bison (or "buffalo"). Bison are the most common large herbivores found at Rancho La Brea, and most specimens are juveniles. This skull belonged to a mature female. Over 300 individuals are represented in the collections at the George C. Page Museum of La Brea Discoveries.

AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	


UNION
FORCE

The Order of Leopold was established as a military order on July 11, 1832, by King Leopold I of the Belgians, but it is now awarded both for outstanding civil and military services to the crown. The motto on the badge reads *L'union fait la force* (union is power). This badge is one of several thousand orders, decorations, and medals in the museum's collections.

SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	August S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31			1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Labor Day					
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Rosh Hashanah					
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
			Yom Kippur			
25	26	27	28	29	30	October S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



The emerald green and silver striped scarab beetle *Plusiotis gloriosa* occurs from Arizona to Texas south to northern Mexico. Although not particularly rare, this striking inch-long beetle is nevertheless exceptionally difficult to find in the wild, for it is virtually invisible in the western juniper trees it inhabits during the summer months. These beetles are a few of the 4.5 million specimens in the museum's entomology collections.

OCTOBER

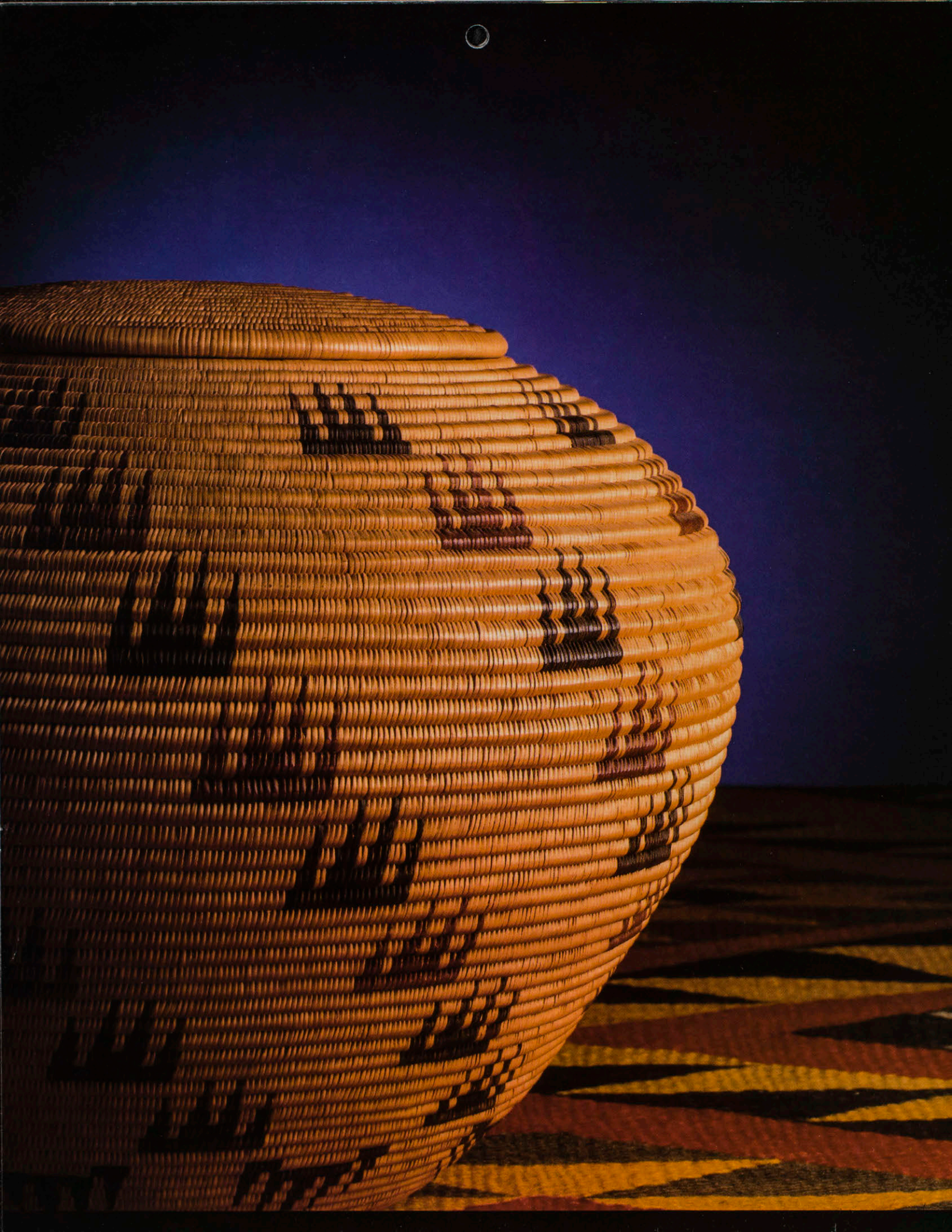
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Columbus Day Observed					
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 Halloween					

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



The Washo basket, selected from the museum's North American Ethnology Collections for display in the forthcoming Times Mirror Hall of Native American Cultures, was woven by Louisa Keyser (ca. 1850–1925), known also as Dat so la lee. The elegant high-shouldered form of this rare lidded basket, woven in 1915, is typical of Louisa Keyser's finest work. In the background is a Navajo "eyedazzler" blanket ca. 1880–1890. The bright colors and dizzying design combinations used in many textiles in the late nineteenth century earned them their name.

NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Election Day			Veterans' Day	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
				Thanksgiving		
27	28	29	30	December S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		

SUNSET



DRAWN BY A. METHFESSEL

OCTOBER 1903

THE MAGAZINE OF CALIFORNIA and THE WEST

This newsstand poster advertises the October 1903 issue of *Sunset Magazine*. The poster is from the Seaver Center for Western History Research's collection of turn-of-the-century book and magazine advertisements. Reprinted with the permission of Lane Publishing Company.

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		January 1989 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Chanukah 11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Christmas	26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve

TERRA

THE MEMBERS' MAGAZINE
OF THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY
AND THE PAGE MUSEUM
OF LA BREA DISCOVERIES

VOL. 26, NO. 3 • JANUARY / FEBRUARY 1988

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